#MCNVOTE2015

Absentee ballots mailed out Oct. 19

Precinct registration closes 5 p.m. Oct. 28



MUSCOGEE NATION NEWS

Feds to pay estimated \$4 million to MCN

Tribes to benefit from DOI settlement

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — In a Sept. 17 press release, the U.S. Department of the Interior in conjunction with the Department of Justice disclosed a proposed \$940 million settlement to be divided up among 640 Native American tribes.

The settlement is in response to a 25-year long class action lawsuit for underpayment of contract funds by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to programs such as law enforcement, housing and federal education.

According to a court filing about the case, this settlement will cover support cost for fiscal years 1994–2013.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Policy Analyst and Self-Governance Officer Brenda Golden explained that when the Indian Self-Determination Act was passed in 1975, it authorized the BIA to contract tribal governments to fulfill services and functions previously performed by the bureau.

"What they didn't do was give us enough money to do those functions and so, every year there would be a shortfall in the amount of self-governance funds," Golden said. "They have cut their staff and moved more duties to us without actually paying us infull for what we were spending."

DOI Secretary Sally Jewell

Feds-3



Amanda Rutland/MNN

The Margaritaville themed expansion project construction site for River Spirit Casino in Tulsa, Okla., photographed Sept. 22 during a media tour. As of the tour, 15 floors of the planned 27-story hotel for the project were completed.

Update tour held at River Spirit

Amanda Rutland/Media Specialist

TULSA, Okla. — Construction on the \$365 million Margaritaville themed expansion project for River Spirit Casino, located along

the Arkansas River in Tulsa is halfway complete said RSC General Manager of Operations

Jerry Floyd.

According to an RSC release, when completed, the project will consist of a 27-story hotel, two-story Margaritaville restaurant

convention space, entertainment venue, retail stores and an additional gaming floor as well as parking.

An on-site media tour of the 15 floors completed for hotel portion was hosted Sept. 22.

and bar, riverfront pool, Halfway - 2

CMN hosts annual fall festival



Chelsie Rich/MNN

College of the Muscogee Nation faculty and staff members competed against students Sept. 9 in a game of tug-of-war at the annual CMN Fall Festival on the college campus in Okmulgee, Okla.

Event brings faculty, staff and students together

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The College of the Muscogee Nation held their annual Fall Festival Sept. 9 to welcome new

enrollees and welcome back returning students on the college campus in Okmulgee.

Students, faculty and staff gathered together for a day of fun filled events.

"We do this every year for

Festival - 2

Community grant amendment veto override fails during Council

Free press legislation addressed

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — A regular session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 26 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

The Council addressed a veto on:

veto on:
• NCA 15-185 repealing Title 11, Chapter 3 titled, 'Grant Funds for Economic Development and Social Service Programs' and replacing it with a new Title 11, Chapter 3 titled, 'Annual Funds for Operational Costs, Economic Development and Social Service Programs of Chartered Communities.' Rep. Lucian Tiger sponsored the amendment.

The Community Development Block Grant authorizes an annual appropriation to the communities for their operations. The grant is divided up among them based on their economic status.

Since a shortfall of funding was reported regarding the current system, the amendment would have created a Community Operation and Development Fund in its place, providing a set amount of \$1.5 million to be divided up equally and provided in three increments not to exceed \$20,000 over the year in a total amount not to exceed \$60,000.

For further information about the bill view 'Muscogee

Council - 6

CORRECTION

The General Election is Nov. 7

The date that ran in candidate profile section beginning with the 'Muscogee Nation News' Aug. 1 edition had the date incorrectly listed as Nov. 2

I regret this error and a correction will run on page 1 through the Nov. 1 edition.

Sterling Cosper MNN Editor

Council approves budget for first FY 2016 quarter

Ordinance passed to maintain funding amid negotiations

Sterling Cosper/MNN Editor

OKMULGEE, Okla. — An emergency session of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation National Council was held Sept. 29 at the MCN Mound Building in Okmulgee.

During the session, the Council addressed NCA 15-224, approving a continuing budget ordinance and providing for appropriations and authorization for expenditures for fiscal year 2016.

Rep. Thomas Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-0. Reps. Shirlene Ade, Adam Jones and Robert Hufft were absent.

NCA 15-226 was addressed during another emergency session Oct. 6 amending the initial bill to fund additional services and address discrepancies.

Yahola sponsored the amendment, which passed 11-3 with Reps. David Hill, James Jennings and Lucian Tiger voting against it. Rep. David Nichols was absent.

The legislation states that the FY 2016 budget was delayed due to funding requests and projected revenue and the Council did not have enough time to review and approve it.

The ordinance is needed to fund all three branches of government until the full FY 2016 budget is approved. It provides funding until Jan.

The FY 2016 budget begins Oct. 1 and ends Sept. 30, 2016.

The legislation allows for various percentage tiers of

Budget - 4

FESTIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

our students," Dean of Student Affairs Krystal Wind said.

The event featured activities such as: tug-of-war between the students and the faculty and staff, a photo booth, blood drive, HIV testing, as well as free throw and three-point contests and many others.

"It's just a way to get all the students to come together to meet one another because fall is always our highest enrollment," Wind said.

Door prizes were given to the winners of the activities and all students enrolled for fall classes were also entered to win prizes.

"We want to get to know our students. We want them to get to know us," Wind said. "Become more familiar with one another. That way they know who they can go talk to whenever they might come across an issue they may be having on campus."

Muscogee (Creek) Nation departments and programs were also on location with informational booths to present the resources they offer.

"The CMN Student Senate

organization raised \$126.61 in the 'Pennies for Pies' activity during Fall Fest 15," Student Success Counselor Elsa Lowe said.

The 'Pennies for Pies' features a donation collection to choose which faculty member would get a pie in the face.

"The Student Senate has decided to save the money and continue fundraising, so that they may purchase gifts or treats for the children at the Murrow Indian Children's Home during the Christmas season," Lowe said. "Last year, the CMN Student Senate was able to contribute approximately \$600 worth of items to the Murrow Indian Children's Home."

CMN sophomore Alexander Fields from Okmulgee shared his thoughts about fall fest.

"Everyone's out in the open just having fun and just being one big tribe." Fields said. "Everyone's coming together to just have fun together."

For more information on events call: 918-549-2817.

For information about CMN visit: www.mvsktc.org.

HALFWAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Floyd explained that the facility is considered a 'local's casino' within the gaming industry because it currently has no hotel.

"We are going from no hotel to the largest hotel in the City of Tulsa with 484 rooms and suites," Floyd said.

Once construction is complete, Margaritaville will be a separate gaming facility.

"We will have two casinos under one roof. Of course, our River Spirit Casino," Floyd said. "With the expansion, we will add a second casino. It will be the Margaritaville casino with 850 [gaming machines] covering 350,000 square feet of gaming space."

Floyd said RSC has been in operation six years and the demand for more gaming space has existed since opening.

Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief George Tiger was on-hand for the tour and spoke about the economic impact.

"The final product will allow us to be able to get some revenues to continue providing the revenues to our citizens with much needed programs and services," Tiger said.

According to a fact sheet issued by RSC, the construction site employs 350 workers daily.

The fact sheet also stated that when completed, the twoyear construction project will have brought \$303.5 million to the Tulsa area and 800 fulltime jobs will be created upon opening of the facility.

The estimated completion date for the Margaritaville Casino and Restaurant is fall of 2016 and the hotel and entertainment facility is set to open that winter.

According to an River Spirit Casino release, when completed, the project will consist of a 27-story hotel, two-story Margaritaville restaurant and bar, riverfront pool, convention space, entertainment venue, retail stores and an additional gaming floor as well as parking.

Citizen poet wins major award, releases new collection



Submission

Harjo receives further national recognition

Gary Fife/Radio Specialist

OKMULGEE, Okla. — September was quite a month for Muscogee (Creek) poet, author and musician Joy Harjo.

Harjo was named by the Academy of American Poets Sept. 10 as winner of the 2016 Wallace Stevens Award. The award from the prestigious poetry group came with a \$100,000 prize and high praise for her work.

Harjo was aware she had been nominated, but was surprised to learn the Associated Press had made the announcement nationally.

Harjo pointed out the potential for what the award can do for other writers.

"I think what is really helpful here, is that it opens the door and it opens an awareness for other young Native poets and there are many," she said.

Harjo joked about relatives showing up asking for loans and said the cash award would bring some relief to her budget.

"It'll pay bills and taxes. You know, taxes takes a huge chunk,"

Harjo plans to use some of the funds to support an arts organization she and some other Mvskoke artists hope to establish.

On the Academy website, Chancellor Alicia Ostriker said, "A Creek Indian and student of First Nation history, Harjo is rooted simultaneously in the natural world, in earth-es-

pecially the landscape of the American Southwest-and in the spirit world.

"Aided by these redemptive forces of nature and spirit, incorporating Native traditions of prayer and myth into a powerfully contemporary idiom, her visionary justice-seeking art transforms personal and collective bitterness to beauty, fragmentation to wholeness and trauma to healing."

Besides recognition from the national poets group, Harjo released her eighth book of poetry at the end of September, 'Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings.'

The newest work differs from some of the more serious subjects that have been the focal point of her past writings.

"I think a lot of people think it's much lighter—or not lighter, but, you know, what I see in it," she said. "An Athabascan friend of mine from Alaska who saw the manuscript said I sounded like I was more in my heart; that she could hear really me speaking for the first time, at a certain place. You know what that has to do with, was coming home."

Harjo hopes to bring her new publication to Muscogee (Creek) country at a future date and perhaps, make it available through the Muscogee (Creek) Nation gift shop.

'Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings' is available at: www.Amazon.com.

SRO Transit helps preserve language while giving rides

Drivers connect with citizens through culture

Darren DeLaune/MNN Reporter

WETUMKA, Okla. — If you were a Mvskoke language speaker, how would you feel if you could pick up the phone, call Muscogee (Creek) Nation for services and talk to someone who understood you? That would feel pretty great right?

Southern Regional Office in Wetumka through the MCN Transit Department.

The SRO dispatcher is fluent Mvskoke speaker Janet Taylor.

"If they call me and they want to speak Creek, I will be happy to speak back to them in our language," Taylor said. "This is what makes my job great, is to be able to speak my language to the people we help."

Once you are picked up, there are drivers who speak Myskoke too. The drivers are Clara Jacobs and Arthur Sands.

"You can just feel the relief when you speak Creek to our

passengers," Jacobs said. "There is a big smile on their face and they want to talk."

Most passenger destinations are within the city limits.

Those who need to run errands or have lunch at the MCN Elderly Nutrition Center will call to get a ride; not only for the service but also because of the friendship they have with the drivers.

"I think because I can speak It does happen at the MCN Creek, our riders look forward to that," Jacobs said.

> What is a typical day like in the SRO Transit office?

"As soon as we get here, we map out our day and who goes where," Taylor said. "Hardly any English is spoken among us and that is how we like it."

After they get everything ready for the day, the drivers and dispatcher know how this makes their passengers happy and does something much more meaningful.

"We are keeping this language alive," Jacobs said. "When I speak to our citizens and they speak back, it is keeping the Creek language out here. You never know who is listening and because we spoke it, they want to learn."

The language is kept alive at MCN by CDs, DVDs and classes but also by everyday people doing their jobs and having conversations.

At the end of the day, they total their fare from the travelers, look over the vehicles to make sure they are ready for the next day and say their farewells.

When they leave though, two things are taken with them. One is the fact that they made their passengers happier by speaking their Native tongue.

And two?

"When I get home, it is only Creek in my house," Taylor said. "It is a rarity if there is English, not unless we have company."

Jacobs shared that sentiment.

"We only speak our language at my house," Jacobs said. "I love it. It is a great feeling."

To make a reservation call: the Okmulgee office at: 918-732-7909 or the SRO location at: 405-452-1182.

MUSCOGEE NATION

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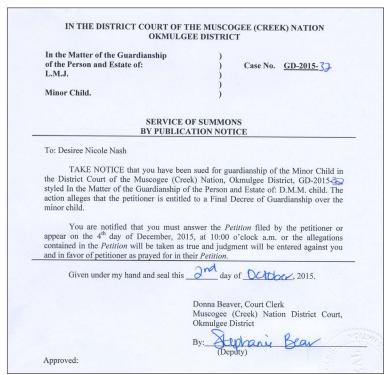
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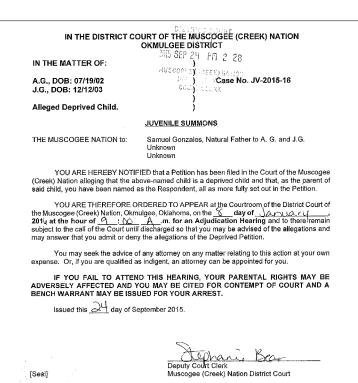
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Clinician discusses correlation between substance abuse, depression

MCNDH offers mental health screenings in October

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. Everyone has moments where they feel blue, but sometimes depression sets in making every day tasks difficult to cope with.

"Depression can affect of different people a lot ways and it's very common," Muscogee (Creek) Nation Behavioral Health Substance Abuse Program Coordinator and Clinician Leslie Crow said.

Symptoms of depression include anxiety, thoughts of death or suicide, debilitating fatigue and unexplained aches and pains.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 16 million adults in the U.S. had at least one major depressive episode in the past year.

There are many different types of depression and causes for each case vary.

"One of the signs of depression is increased substance abuse because that is something people often use as a coping mechanism. But it's not a healthy one," Crow said. "It also increases risks of suicide so it's really important to be aware of substance abuse and if it's beginning to increase or if it's beginning to cause problems."

coordination In with Red National Ribbon Week (Oct. 23-31) BHS is coordinating with area schools to promote healthy lifestyles and help prevent substance abuse.

National Red Ribbon Week is recognized to help raise awareness about and advocate against, drug use and provide resources to educate the public.

Crow said that there is a strong correlation between substance abuse and depression. In some cases depression can cause substance abuse or vice versa.

"Sometimes abusing substances for other reasons or even recreationally, just the substances themselves can cause depression because they do affect the chemicals in the brain and make it really difficult for people to be able to feel pleasure and feel normal enjoyment and satisfaction with daily life," she said.

According to NAMI, 8.4 million of the 20.7 million adults in the U.S. who abused substances also suffered from mental illness.

not corrected, symptoms of depression can lead to more intense symptoms including thoughts of suicide.

The MCN Department of Health has scheduled mental health screenings at locations around the MCN jurisdiction.

"They screen for depression, mood disorders, anxiety, which is sometimes labeled as bipolar disorder and then post-traumatic stress disorder," Crow said.

Each screening will provide participants with resources about mental health and substance abuse issues.

Health providers will ask individuals a few questions related their personal mental

Treatment for depression can include counseling and/or medication.

Any participant that receives a high score for symptoms of mental health issues will be referred to a mental health provider.

Mental health screenings are scheduled at the following locations:

Oct. 19-20: Sapulpa Clinic, Oct. 26-27: Wetumka Clinic Oct. 29-30: Eufaula Clinic

For more information about mental health screenings, call BHS at: 918-758-1930.

Croley finds new life path through TANF Program

Program reaches out to citizens in Tulsa

Jessica McBride/Media Coordinator

OKMULGEE, Okla. — "I was in active drug addiction for about five years starting at around the age 13," Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jentri Croley

Moving often and addicted to methamphetamine (meth), she said the turning point came when she learned she was preg-

"At one point I felt like I was stuck in a rut and I needed help and I didn't know where to go to get it. I kind of was for a long time, in this mindframe like, 'this is just how my life's supposed to be," Croley said.

She began going to drug treatment five days a week and volunteered on Saturdays. Unable to work to care for herself and her baby Jack, she reached out to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program in February 2014.

Croley was living at a pregnancy shelter in Tulsa when Jack was born and remained there for around a year. She then went to a transitional living program for working mothers.

"In addition to providing financial assistance and supportive services, the TANF staff also provides emotional support and encouragement," TANF Community Resource Coordinator Tolissa Autry said. "In many cases, participants are inspired just knowing that someone believes in them."

TANF participants are required to complete work participation hours, which can also help motivate them to seek employment to become self-sufficient or pursue education in an effort to increase their employability.

"This is a great example of complementing other community programs to provide a more comprehensive service solution that will not only address immediate needs, but create stability within the family," Autry said.

Croley said the structure of the TANF Program gave her the tools she needed to turn her life

She was able to plan her goals with a TANF staff member, instead of just idealizing them in her head.

"I can think about doing something all day long and not know how to do it, but when I talk about it with someone else, it kind of clears it up a little bit and makes it more concrete too," Croley said.

The goals she established were to move out of the shelter, become financially stable and go back to college.

Croley moved out of the transitional living center July 2015.

She paid down her fines and decided to make smart decisions with managing her money.

"My favorite part of TANF were the weekly incentives," Croley said. "At first, just because I was over the (income) limit didn't mean that we had enough, you know, money to get through everything that we needed."

In the beginning, she said that saving felt impossible.

Croley was promoted twice in a year at her job, and no longer depended on the weekly incentive to make ends meet.

"I started baby Jack a savings account... it's his with his name on it," she said. "I would split my incentives up between his account and my account."

Croley soon reaped the benefits of having an emergency fund after the transmission went out on her vehicle. She used the money to help purchase a new vehicle.

"It was the biggest blessing because I don't know what else I would've done," she said. "It felt really good to have that."

Croley was also able to go back to school and is in her second semester at Tulsa Community College studying liberal arts.

During her time as a TANF participant, she was able to utilize the MCN TANF satellite location in Jenks.

TANF Career Specialist David Smith said that he feels the Tulsa area location helps participants save gas by giving a closer alternative to Okmulgee, and lets them use those resources toward finding employment near their residence.

He believes that having faceto-face interaction also promotes a determination to become self-sufficient.

"I believe it gives them a better feel that somebody cares more about what they're doing and what they're needing help with," Smith said.

Croley celebrated her twoyear anniversary of being drug free Aug. 1. She transitioned off of TANF services in October, after maintaining employment for 12 months.

She believes that the program can help those in need or give them a chance to change their life.

"I feel like it can really happen for anybody. Someone who will be successful in changing their life is someone who's OK with taking suggestions from other people," Croley said. "That was the biggest thing that was hard for me that helped me the most."

The TANF mission is to increase self-sufficiency by breaking the cycle of dependence on welfare programs.

For more information about the MCN TANF Program, call: 918-732-7985 or visit: www. mcn-nsn.gov/Pages/TANF/tanfapp.html.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said self-determination and selfgovernance will be a guiding factor in the relationship between tribes and the U.S. government.

"We are committed to fully funding contract support costs so that tribal contracting will be more successful," Jewell said. "Today's announcement resolves

past claims and allows money wrapped up in litigation to be used more productively."

The Obama administration is seeking mandatory funding of support costs starting in FY 2017.

U.S. Rep. and Chickasaw Nation citizen Tom Cole issued a statement about the settlement.

"This is good news for the historically battered relationship between Indian Country

and the federal government. By reimbursing tribes who were short-changed in the past and ensuring proper compensation for those same contracts in the future, it symbolizes a United States that stays true to its word and fully honors the promises made to Native Americans," Cole said.

Golden said if tribes agree to the settlement, MCN could receive funds as early as next year.



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Muscogee (Creek) citizen thrives in martial arts



Chelsie Rich/MNN

Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jair Harjo does martial arts training with his father, Henry Harjo at their home in Edmond, Okla.

Harjo strives to become a ninja

Chelsie RIch/Project Specialist

EDMOND, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Jair Harjo won first place in Yu Sin/forms and third in sparring for the Black Belt Division Ages 8–10 at the State Games of American Competition Aug. 1 in Omaha, Neb.

Jair is a nine-year-old fourth grader at Heritage Elementary in Edmond and resides in Edmond with his parents Henry and Rachelle Harjo and sister Jessica.

At a young age, Jair has already made many accomplishments.

Along with his recent victories, Jair also holds the titles of 2014 Oklahoma Karate Association State Champion, 2014 Oklahoma Sooner State Games Champion and is a Dan First Degree Black Belt.

"I just started watching movies like the 'Karate Kid' and it made me interested in being a ninja," Jair said.

Jair started participating in the martial arts style of Tae Kwan
Do at the age of four when his father introduced it to him.

Ninja Warrior, "Jair said.

Jair also participates ir ball, baseball, basketball junior open water scuba

Henry participated in martial arts as a child and wanted

to share the experience with his son.

"We used to do Karate when we were young... it's one of the things that teaches you discipline," Henry said.

Jair trains at Compact Karate but also has his own workout room at his house where his father trains him.

"He's accustomed to doing 80-100 push ups a day and when he got ready for his black belt, he wound up doing over 500," Henry said. "I think that there's a lot of exercise and a lot of constitutionality about our children that through exercise and movement, it helps."

Jair is now training in martial arts weaponry and hopes one day to become a ninja.

"I feel like the ninja is the top goal that I really want to be because I practice it at home and sneak around," Jair said.

Jair also shared another one of his goals he hopes to accomplish.

"I love obstacles and I feel like I really want to go on 'American Ninja Warrior,' " Jair said.

Jair also participates in football, baseball, basketball, is a junior open water scuba diver and a member of the Comanche Man Dance Society.

BUDGET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

funding depending on projected need and/or availability.

The special revenue funds coming from federal agencies and the employee incentive are approved at 100 percent.

The insurance budget for Risk Management, Challenge Bowl, Council Oak Ceremony, Hall of Fame Gala, Euchee Heritage Festival and Pink Party are approved at 100 percent of the FY 2015 budget.

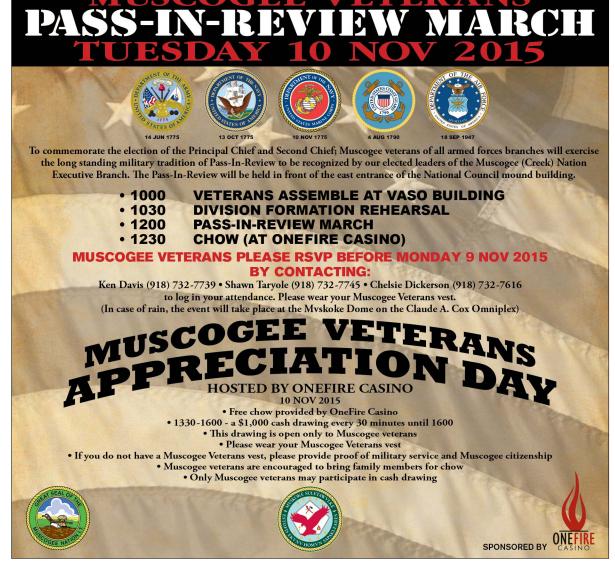
Client Services; Gaming Division software/licenses and

equipment; the emergency scholarship fund; the Higher Education Department grants and scholarships as well as special academic assistance, are approved at 50 percent of the FY 2015 budget.

Special appropriations established by law except for the tribal events listed above; the Tobacco Prevention Program; Juvenile Justice Program; Community Research and Development, Euchee Language and Information Technology Departments as well as all other operational costs are approved at 25 percent of the FY 2015 budget.









Hot Seat Blitz Drawings

Ten (10) - \$10 Free Play drawings at the Main Casino or Travel Plaza every 30 minutes beginning at NOON and ending at 5:00PM.

Halloween Costume Contest

5:00PM

1st Place - \$1,000

2nd Place - \$750

3rd Place - \$500

4th Place - \$250

5th Place - \$100

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COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Nation News coverage on page six of the Sept. 15 edition.

A veto message issued by MCN Principal Chief George Tiger outlined his objections.

The first objection stated that the legislation lacked supporting financial documentation to outline reasonable funding amounts given to the communities based on their membership and/or degree of services.

The second stated that the bill also lacked an impact study to determine how the proposed changes would affect the future economic development of the communities, arguing that said impact would be negative.

The third states that there was not any input from the communities regarding the legislation.

The final objection says there were 19 communities that attended a meeting regarding the bill and after discussing it, three were in favor of the bill while 16 were against it, requesting that the bill be vetoed.

The override failed 10-5 with Reps. Shirlene Ade, Frank Coachman, David Hill, Robert Hufft and David Nichols voting against it.

Afterwards, the Council addressed the follow legislation:

• TR 15-157 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a business application for registration with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs between MCN and the State of Oklahoma for the MCN Department of Health pharmacies. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed

MCNDH operates several pharmacies within MCN and periodic renewal of licensure with OBN is required in order to continue doing so.

an application for certification between MCNDH and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

lab facilities within MCN and periodic certification renewal through HHS is required in order to continue doing so.

• TR 15-159 Approving the terms of settlement and authorizing the principal chief to execute a settlement agreement and mutual release regarding a lawsuit involving interests of the MCN Medical Center pending in Okmulgee County District Court. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The resolution authorizes a settlement between MCN and a former employee of Okmulgee Memorial Hospital.

When MCN acquired OMH (now MCN Medical Center) it took on certain existing liabilities including a pending lawsuit filed by former OMH Chief Financial Officer Paul Ervin.

The suit claims that upon the end of Ervin's employment, OMH refused, without justification, to pay him the salary continuance outlined in an employee severance agreement between him and the hospital.

Ervin also filed for money damages including attorney costs, on a breach of contract theory.

The Council agreed to the terms of the settlement (which can be found under NCA 15-212 below) without admission of liability and/or guilt and authorizes the principal chief to execute it on behalf of MCN.

• TR 15-160 Authorizing the principal chief to execute an interagency agreement for the use of space with Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology for the Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program. Ade sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH uses space on the OSUIT campus to provide services and needs to renew an agreement to continue doing

TR 15-161 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement with the Cherokee Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma for cooperative tribal monitoring and support with regard to the Magellan L.P. Pipeline Project in Sebastian, White, Lonoke and Pulaski Counties, Ark. Rep. Joyce Deere sponsored the resolution, which was postponed indefinitely.

The pipeline intersects with the MCN Trail of Tears route and the agreement reflects a joint effort among the tribes to preserve potential historic sites pertinent to each of them.

According to an email provided by Deere, the tribes have decided to cancel negotiations with the pipeline due to a change in the stipulations usually outlined for negotiations with them. The tribes are working on a formal complaint to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

• TR 15-162 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among Indian Health Services, • TR 15-158 Authorizing MCN and the Checotah Public the principal chief to execute Works Authority for wastewater disposal facilities for Indian owned homes within the City of Checotah. Rep. Mark Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows the MCNDH operates several U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Checotah PWA to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by PWA that serve Indian homes in the area.

> • TR 15-163 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement between MCN and IHS for the construction, improvement and installation of satisfactory domestic water supply and adequate wastewater disposal facilities for 23 Indian homes in Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner Counties. Randolph sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

> IHS and MCN wish to install and improve water facilities to 23 Indian homes in these areas with IHS providing \$396,000 for the labor, materials, connection fees, equipment and supplies with MCN acting on a consolatory basis for legal and technical aspects related to the

> • TR 15-164 Authorizing the Gaming Operations Authority Board to execute a standard form of agreement with I-5 Design and Manufacturing Inc. for renovations to the Eufaula Casi-

no. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GOAB is responsible for casino operations and must receive approval from the Council for work in excess of \$50,000 to real property.

The board has determined that the casino is in need of renovations due to its dilapidated structure, poor working conditions and outdated interior that is not aesthetically pleasing to customers and has chosen I-5 for the interior renovations.

• TR 15-165 Confirming the nomination of Blue Clark to serve on the College of the Muscogee Nation Board of Regents. Rep. James Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

MCN law requires an appointment by the principal chief to the board and Tiger has chosen Clark. View his profile on the Oklahoma City University School of Law website here: http://law.okcu. edu/?about=faculty/clark-c-

 TR 15-166 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among IHS, MCN and the City of Wetumka for satisfactory wastewater disposal facilities for Indian owned homes in the City of Wetumka, Hughes County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Wetumka to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by the city that serve Indian homes in the area.

• TR 15-167 Authorizing the principal chief to execute a memorandum of agreement among IHS, MCN and the Weleetka Public Works Authority for satisfactory domestic water supply facilities for Indian owned homes in Okfuskee County. Deere sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The agreement allows IHS, through MCN, to help fund improvements performed by Weleetka PWA to wastewater disposal facilities, operated by PWA that serve 98 Indian homes in the area.

• TR 15-168 Authorizing the principal chief to execute network participation agreements with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma on behalf of MCNDH. Jennings sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-

MCNDH wishes to recover costs associated with providing services to citizens covered under BCBSOK health insurance plans and said agreements would allow them to do so.

• TR 15-169 Authorizing GOAB to execute a Blue Cross Blue Shield business associate agreement, affiliated ancillary documents related to the agreement and approve the stop loss policy. Hufft sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

GOAB seeks approval to provide BCBS health benefits to all casino employees stating that it is the best for them and will also save the facilities \$1-2 million in the first year.

• TR 15-170 Amending TR 12-072 (Authorizing the Nation to borrow \$14,785,000 from the permanent fund to be used toward the purchase of RiverWalk Crossing Development and for incidentals and improvements). Coachman sponsored the resolution, which passed 14-0.

The proposed FY 2016 budget has a shortfall, creating a need to defer the payment this year to the permanent fund for the purchase of RiverWalk.

• NCA 15-203 Authorizing a \$250 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) citizen. Rep. Adam Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Marie Faubion and Lizzie Lowe qualified to compete in the National Indian Taco Championship in Pawhuska and request financial assistance for expenses involved in doing

 NCA 15-209 Authorizing a \$2,859 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Dode Barnett sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Logan Holt wishes to participate in an Education First Tour of the Britannia with his English teacher, which includes a number of cities in Scotland, Ireland and England and requests financial assistance to do so.

• NCA 15-210 Authorizing a \$148.03 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Rep. Mitch Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Abbigale Green participates in basketball and golf at Henryetta High School. Her father Keith Green requests assistance to purchase a letter jacket for her.

• NCA 15-211 Authorizing a \$207.27 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Jack sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizen Lillian Butler is a cheerleader for the Stroud Tigers third and fourth grade peewee football team and her parents request financial assistance to purchase a uniform for

• NCA 15-212 Appropriating \$60,000 to be used for funding the settlement agreement and mutual release regarding a lawsuit involving interests of the MCN Medical Center pending in Okmulgee County District Court. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 12-2 with Reps. Tiger and Nichols voting against it.

The appropriation funds the settlement agreement outlined in TR 15-159 listed above.

 NCA 15-213 Authorizing a \$750 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Nichols sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Mariah and MaKayla Johnson are sisters who play in the Shawnee High School band and seek financial assistance to participate in the You're Instrumental! Disney Performing Arts Workshop in Orlando, Fla.

• NCA 15-214 Authorizing a \$450 special appropriation to a Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored amendment, which passed 14-0.

Ian Deo plays trombone in the Beggs Band of Demons at Beggs Middle School and seeks financial assistance to play at the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, D.C.

• NCA 15-215 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for the MCN Tribal Transportation Program. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

TTP wishes to modify its FY 2013 budget to reallocate certain excess funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-216 Authorizing a budget modification in excess of 10 percent for MCN TTP. Ade sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

TTP wishes to modify its FY 2014 budget to reallocate cer-

tain excess funds for other expenses.

• NCA 15-217 Authorizing a \$500 special appropriation to two Muscogee (Creek) youth. Coachman sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

Citizens Sierra Annalee and Delanee Lynn Denney play soccer and request financial assistance for the 2015-2016 season.

• NCA 15-218 Creating new law to establish an independent media and to provide protections for the independent media and editorial board in Title 49 and amending Muscogee (Creek) Nation Code Annotated Title 16, Section 1-102 J., titled, 'Mvskoke Media' and K., titled 'Independent Statutory Executive Agencies' and MCNCA Title 37, Section 2-204 titled, 'Communications Department Revolving Account' and repealing MCNCA Title 16, Chapter 5, Subchapter 1, titled 'Communication Services.' Reps. Thomas Yahola, Pete Beaver, Johnnie Greene, Nichols, Barnett, Deere, Coachman, Randolph, Tiger, Hill, Hufft, Jennings and Jones sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

The law removes the department from directly under the executive branch in the organizational chart and makes it an independent statutory executive agency.

A three person board will be solely responsible for the employment status of the manager with the manager solely responsible for said status of the employees in accordance with the board's policies, which they will outline once nominated.

Each board member will be nominated for governmental approval with one selected by the executive branch, one by the legislative branch and one by Mvskoke Media. None of theses members can be employees of any of the three nominating parties.

The board members will have three-year terms that will be staggered for continuity.

The board and staff are forbidden from governmental influence in their professional capacities.

The board members must certify that they will adhere to the accepted ethics outlined by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Native American Journalist Associa-

Two members must be Muscogee (Creek) citizens. One must have a background in tribal law. Two must have a background in the journalism field or one must have experience in journalism and one must have graphic design and printing experience.

The deadline to have the board in place is Jan. 1, 2016.

No staff member will be compelled to reveal a source in a judicial proceeding unless a complainant shows through clear in convincing evidence, that the source is relevant to a significant issue and said source could not be obtained by alternate means.

This protection also does not apply to allegedly defamatory information for issues such as slander or libel addressed in a civil suit.

• NCA 15-219 Amending MCNCA Title 19, Section

Council - 7

COUNCIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

2-107 titled, 'Maintenance of Records.' Rep. Tiger sponsored amendment, which passed 14-

This law states that all public officials and candidates should be entitled to the names and addresses of registered voters except for those who expressly ask the MCN Election Board to keep them private.

• NCA 15-220 Authorizing the expenditure of \$2.75 million MCNDH investment funds for the purchase of medical equipment, operations and facility renovations and improvements for the MCN Physical Rehabilitation Center, MCN Medical Center and the Creek Nation Community Hospital. Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-0.

MCNDH has a third party investment account and would like to expend from it to pay for medical equipment, operations and facility renovations and improvements for the three facilities.

• NCA 15-222 Amending NCA 13-227 (Authorizing a special appropriation to the Wilson Indian Community). Jennings sponsored the amendment, which passed 14-

The Council previously appropriated funds for the community to construct an activity center and recreational equipment for it. The construction is not finished and therefore the money needs to be carried over to FY 2016.

The upcoming quarterly session is scheduled Oct. 31.

Typically, eligible entities who received appropriated funds and are not MCN tribal programs, departments or other subsidiaries, are required to submit receipts to the MCN Office of the Controller within 30 days after said funds are expended or

The summary of each bill is attributed to the planning session or committee agendas available on: www.mcnnc. com, and the MCNCA is used as reference material, which is available on the MCN Supreme Court website at: www. creeksupremecourt.com.

It is also based on MNN: staff interpretation, research and interviews possible: on our production schedule, through our resources and based on our experience and ability.

According to the MCN Constitution, every bill passed by the Council must be presented to the principal chief for approval before it becomes law. The principal chief has 10 business days to sign it or return it as a veto with objections to the Council.

The Council may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of the total representatives in favor of the action. If he neither signs it nor vetoes it, the bill becomes law after the 10day period.

The votes for each bill are crosschecked with the agenda posted on the Council site after each session.

For more information contact the Council office at: 918-758-1410.

Citizen interns in Washington, D.C.



Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cody Minyard interned for U.S. Sen. Al Franken this summer through the Native American Political Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.

Minyard gains experience at U.S. capitol

Chelsie Rich/Project Specialist

NORMAN, Okla. — Muscogee (Creek) citizen Cody Minyard interned for U.S. Sen. Al Franken this summer through the Native American Political Leadership Program in Washington, D.C.

Minyard, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Oklahoma, is in the Honors College with a 3.6 GPA majoring in political science with a concentration in elections and campaigns.

According to the Semester in Washington website, NAPLP is a full scholarship program designed to give Native American

undergraduate and graduate students the chance to participate in the Semester in Washington Politics program.

"They find places throughout D.C. to set up Native American students in the realm of Indian Affairs, whether that be on Capitol Hill or an agency; just anything to help our tribe," Minyard said.

Through the program, Minyard was able to take six hours of coursework at George Washington University, live on campus and receive stipends for books and living expenses as well as a round-trip airfare ticket to and from Washington, D.C.

"I was an intern for U.S. Senator Al Franken from Minnesota," Minyard said. "Minnesota has 11 different Native American tribes, which is why I was set up with a U.S. senator."

The program helped Minyard get in contact with Franken to interview for the internship.

Minyard performed basic internship duties such as answering phones, emails and mail but also got to experience other aspects.

"I personally had to do the Indian Affairs section where I attended briefings, hearings; met with the Department of Interior," Minyard said. "Just a lot of different things in the realm of Indian Affairs."

Minyard spoke about how being Native American helped him connect with others in the program and gave him a diverse outlook on situations.

"You have a different perspective than what other people do of the things going on around you, whether it be in Oklahoma or D.C. or wherever you're at in the nation. I am very humbled to be part of Creek Nation," Minyard said.

Minyard shared one of his goals.

"Just anyway I can help give back to the tribe... people that's helped me, whether it be the Henryetta community, my family, my teachers, my friends, just try to help people anyway I can," Minyard said.

Minyard shared his post graduation plans.

"I plan to go to law school, whether it be here at OU Law or in the D.C. area, either in constitutional law or Native American law," Minyard said.

He is a 2013 graduate of Henryetta High School and is the son of Terry and Debbie Minyard of Henryetta.



Oklahoma Study of Native American Pain Risk (OK-SNAP) **Healthy Research Participants Needed**



This study is safe and non-invasive. Participants must be able to attend 2 testing sessions (approximately 4-5.5 hours/sessions). \$200 compensation (\$100/day) is provided.

The TU Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is dedicated to identifying mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain, and to developing non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain conditions.

The University of Tulsa, Psychophysiology **Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience is** conducting a University of Tulsa IRB-approved research study aimed at assessing pain processing in Native Americans.

The goal of this study is to identify potential markers of risk for chronic pain in healthy (currently pain-free) Native American individuals.

To participate, you must NOT*

- Currently have chronic pain or take pain medications
- Have high blood pressure or take antihypertensive medications
- Take antidepressant or anti-anxiety medications *Additional eligibility criteria do apply.

Investigators: Dr. Jamie Rhudy & Dr. Joanna Shadlow





For more information call: 918-631-2175 or 918-631-3565

You may also visit our wesbite at: http://orgs.utulsa.edu/psychophys

or on Facebook at:

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Oklahoma-Study-of-Native-American-Pain-Risk/465628426873916

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Community and Tribal Events

SALLIE WISE



HANNA, Okla. — Sallie Mae Wise went home Aug. 27, 2015. She was born July 2, 1944 in Hanna to Samuel C. Scott and Mandy Brown Scott. She was raised in Hanna and attended Eufaula Boarding School and Franklin High School in Oklahoma City. She was a member of Hillabee Indian Baptist Church in Hanna and enjoyed fellowship with family and friends.

She was fluent in the Myskoke language and enjoyed talking with others.

She loved her Creek hymns, oil art painting as well as arts and crafts plus being a good cook and going to the casino. She worked as a nurse aide and various other jobs.

She was preceded in death by her: parents, husband Leo Wise; son George Lee Scott; granddaughters Loska and Apella Bowers and siblings, Elizabeth Meely, George Lee Scott, Wilson Scott, Mabel Scott, Randolph Scott and Billy Don Scott and Anthony George Scott.

She is survived by her: children, Bobby Brown, Elmer Brown and Una Michelle Brown; grandchildren Noshoba and Netta Brown and Georgia Harjo, Michelee Bowers; great-grandchild; sisters, Minnie Wauqua and husband Wayne of Holdenville and Ester Factor of Talequah; brother Jim (Tata) Wallace of Oklahoma City; sister-in-law, Leah Scott of Oklahoma City; several nephews and nieces; great-nephews and great-nieces; too many cousins to name, each of whom she loved very much and our only uncle Turner Scott and Aunt Jerri, who she loved dearly and talked of him with respect due to elders.

Funeral services were Aug. 31 at Hanna Indian Community Center with Jacob Jackson officiating with several ministers, Charles Mitchell and Kelly Tiger, Newman Crow and others in attendance. Interment was at Hillabee Cemetery.

The family wishes to thank everyone who helped prepare food, did all that needed to be done and sent flowers.

Sallie was very traditional in her old ways and we will miss her very much. We thank you very much for all the assistance, which made it possible for our 4 at Little Quarsarty Baptist

sister. Thank you for the use of Hanna Indian Community Building, which we appreciated very much. We thank Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town and Muscogee (Creek) Nation for burial assistance and the MCN Lighthorse escort. We appreciate Williamson-Spradlin Funeral home for their services. To the members of Ueokofke Church who opened and was waiting for her arrival, the family thanks you. She was very respectful of the church and the way she was raised. We all loved her and will miss her very much.

MVTO

JUANITA YAHOLA



MIRAMAR, Fla. — Juanita Christine Deer Yahola passed away Sept. 29, 2015 at Memorial Hospital in Miramar, Fla., at the age of 92.

Juanita was born July 24, 1923 near Wetumka, Okla., to Alfred and Munna Deer and was raised in the Wewoka area. Juanita attended Butner School until

Photography was more than a Hobby to Jaunita it was her pas-

She enjoyed Big Band Music, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman and the Dorsey Brothers, a smooth dancer!

When World War II was declared, she entered the workforce at Douglas Airfield, our own Rosie The Riveter.

After the war she married U.S. Army Veteran Sam Yahola in 1946 at The Little Quarsarty Indian Baptist Church near Cromwell, Okla.

A brief separation occurred when Sam Yahola was activated with the 45th Division on September 1950 until October 1951.

In 1951, the Yahola family relocated to Chicago where Sam was employed with the U.S. Postal Service.

Acquiring a transfer, they moved back to Oklahoma in 1963. Juanita returned to the workforce in the food service industry and as a nurse's aide.

After suffering a stroke in 1969, Juanita didn't return to the workforce. Sam Yahola passed away Oct. 23, 1979 after working over 25 years with USPS.

In 2008, Juanita went to live with her daughter, Sandra Friday in Clewiston, Fla., until her death.

Juanita Yahola will always be remembered as a wonderful spouse, mother and a person with a smile and a kind word for

She is preceded in death by her: parents, husband and nu-

merous other relatives. She is survived by: children, Sandra Friday of Clewiston, John Yahola of Wewoka, Sam Yahola Jr. of Wewoka, Roman and Sue Yahola of Okemah, Okla., Jonathan Yahola of Okemah, Barry and Ilene Yahola of Tulsa, Okla. and numerous other relatives.

A wake service was held Oct. Church in Cromwell, Okla.

A funeral service was held Oct. 5 at Little Quarsarty Baptist Church and burial followed at the church cemetery.

Services were under the direction of Stout Phillips Funeral Home in Wewoka.

An Online Guestbook is available at: PhillipsFuneralSer-



70				-	N RESULTS		
	Mus	scogee (Cre	ek) Nation P	rimary -	September 19, 2015		
	PRINCIPAL CHIEF				CFAI		
1	JAMES FLOYD	1,282	27.18%		Sept SCAL ON	À	
2	GEORGE TIGER	1,179	25.00%			N	
3	ADAM JONES III	848	17.98%				
4	DAVID NICHOLS	804	17.05%		To the second	9	
5	THOMAS YAHOLA	603	12.79%		GEE NATIONAL PROPERTY OF THE P		
		NATI	ONAL COU	NCIL DE	ELEGATES:		
	Creek District - Seat A				Tulsa District - Seat A		
1	DAVID W. HILL	3,278	74.25%	1	ROBERT L. HUFFT	1,396	31.05%
2	TONY L. BELL	1,137	25.75%	2	ALEXIS BIBLE CROSLEY	710	15.79%
				3	SAM ALEXANDER	669	14.88%
	McIntosh District - Seat A			4	ALVIN L. BUCKTROT	558	12.41%
1	DARRELL PROCTOR	1,779	39.31%	5	RODNEY JOSIE	486	10.81%
2	SHARON WYATT ROSE	1,294	28.60%	6	ELEANOR I. VAN BUSKIRK	414	9.21%
3	TOM PICKERING	893	19.73%	7	DARRIN K. BELL	263	5.85%
4	WILSON L. BEAR	559	12.35%				
					Tukvpvtce District - Seat A		
	Okfuskee District - Seat A			1	SHIRLENE M. ADE	1,028	22.90%
1	RANDALL HICKS	1,216	27.08%	2	RUFUS SCOTT	850	18.93%
2	FRANKLIN COACHMAN	1,124	25.03%	3	EDWIN MARSHALL	773	17.22%
3	LENA LEE WIND	982	21.87%	4	DAVID JIMBOY	747	16.64%
4	CAROL EUGENIA TIGER	696	15.50%	5	SAM GENE WHITLOW	699	15.57%
5	ARLENE DAVIS	473	10.53%	6	CHRIS POWELL	393	8.75%
	Okmulgee District - Seat A				Wagoner District - Seat A		
1	DEL VINCE BEAVER	1,013	22.40%	1	JOHNNIE CHALAKEE GREENE	2,210	50.24%
2	NELSON SCOTT HARJO	797	17.62%	2	TIMOTHY A. JACKSON JR	2,189	49.76%
3	GROVER D. WIND	651	14.40%				
4	PEARL CHALAKEE THOMAS	609	13.47%		STREETSY S. VANILLE		
5	SANDRA PETERS	543	12.01%		ARY P. ARY		
6	DEAN WILLIAMS	495	10.95%		A. A. W.	E R.	h. 8 /
7	HAZEL GRACE BUNNER	414	9.16%		No. 15006367 EXP. 6/05/2019	1 2 N	oy 8.6

MOVIES IN THE DOME SET FOR OCT. 22

OKMULGEE, Okla. — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tourism and Recreation Department has scheduled a free showing of 'Monsters Inc.' 6:30 p.m., Oct. 22 at the Myskoke Dome in Ok-

All are welcome and concessions will be available. For more information call: 918-732-7992.

HARVEST DINNER SET FOR Oct. 24

MORRIS, Okla. — Big Cussetah Indian United Methodist Church has set a harvest dinner for Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Plates are \$8 per person. For more information call Bernadette Whitlow at: 918-759-7020.

TCIC FALL FESTIVAL SET FOR OCT. 30

TULSA, Okla. — The Tulsa Creek Indian Community has set a Fall Festival for Oct. 30 from 6-9 p.m.

All living within the TCIC are invited.

For more information call: 918-298-2464.

ZUMBA COMING MCN COMMUNITIES

OKMULGEE, Okla. — Zumba classes taught by Julie Bryant are scheduled: 11 a.m., Oct. 22 in Okmulgee and 1 p.m. in Dewar and 11 a.m., Nov. 5 in Sapulpa and 1 p.m. in Bristow.

For more information including further dates, call Bryant at: 918-895-3492.

CAREER EXPO SET FOR

OKMULGEE, Okla. - The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Department of Education and Training has set the third annual Education and Career Expo for 8 a.m., Nov. 5 at the Mvskoke Dome in Okmulgee.

For more information call MCN ET at: 918-732-7600.

INTER-TRIBAL PRAYER DAY SET FOR NOV. 7

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — The second annual Inter-Tribal Prayer Day is set for Nov. 7 at the Sequoyah High School cafeteria in Tahlequah from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. For more information call Better Pulver at: 918-282-



HEALTHY FOODS **BUILD HAPPY FAMILIES**

Locations

Glenpool Eufaula Okemah

Okmulgee **Broken Arrow** Coweta

Sapulpa Seminole Shawnee

Stroud Tulsa Wetumka

For an appointment please call 918-549-2790 or 1-800-648-2302 You do not have to be Native American to apply for our program.

Standards for participation are the same for everyone regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin or handicap.



